

PMA FARM NEWS

January 9, 1953

1953 FARM GOALS ANNOUNCED: More feed grains, hay, and grass, and less cotton, wheat, and oilseeds is the national production pattern set up under the 1953 farm production goals program, according to J. E. Kasper, Chairman of the State Agricultural Mobilization Committee.

In North Dakota, the goals program stresses increased output of feed and forage crops. Smaller production is recommended for wheat and flax crops.

"The goals program recognizes that the demand for farm products will probably remain high, with consumer incomes and expenditures even higher than in 1952," Mr. Kasper explained.

"At the same time, exports of some of our important farm crops will almost surely be below those for recent years because of improved agricultural supplies in other countries and a shortage of dollar exchange. Export prospects for wheat this year and next have declined since the wheat production goal was announced last summer.

"The goals program attempts to inform farmers as completely as possible about foreseeable national needs for farm commodities, and the lower goals for these 'export' crops therefore reflect this situation.

"If farmers adjust their production voluntarily under the goals program, they will reduce the possibility of having to use acreage allotments and marketing quotas later to protect themselves against burdensome surpluses and depressed prices."

State and county goals, which total up to the national goals, are carried to farmers through State and County Agricultural Mobilization Committees, composed of representatives of Federal, State, and local agricultural agencies. More specified goals will be announced later, as the program gets under way.

OUTLOOK NOT GOOD IN GREAT PLAINS: The outlook for winter wheat production in the Great Plains on November 1 was not good, according to reports from 403 counties to the Committee on Conditions in the Great Plains. At that time rainfall was below normal in 388 counties and normal or above in 12.

The reports indicate that subsoil moisture, which is intimately related to the yield of wheat, was poor in 334 counties; fair in 59 and good in only 8. Surface moisture needed for the establishment of fall-seeded crops was not adequate in 377 counties. Nearly 18 million acres were in condition to erode by wind as compared with about $9\frac{1}{4}$ million acres a year ago.

Hay and grain were extremely short in the central and southern section of the Great Plains. This shortage and a lack of wheat pasture forced farmers and ranchers to reduce livestock numbers.

One encouraging feature of the report is that the alfalfa and clover acreage is increasing in 356 out of the 403 counties, with the percentage increase extremely high in some areas. However, there will be a lack of grass seed for spring planting in 157 of the counties, particularly in the States from Kansas north.

FEWER PIGS NEXT YEAR: Farmers' reports on breeding intentions indicate 7,395,000 sows to farrow in the spring of 1953, according to the Department of Agriculture's latest spring pig crop summary. This would be 13 percent fewer than last spring. If these intentions materialize and the number of pigs saved per litter equals 6.50 (based on the 10-year average with an allowance for the upward trend), the 1953 spring pig crop would be about 48 million head. A spring crop this size would be 15 percent smaller than in 1952.

This trend is in line with USDA estimates of supply and demand for pork and other meats. As the cattle cycle approaches the peak in numbers and passes into the liquidation phase within the next 2 or 3 years, a further increase is expected in the amount of beef and veal reaching the market. For this reason, during the next few years less pork will be needed to provide a near-record supply of red and poultry meats per capita.

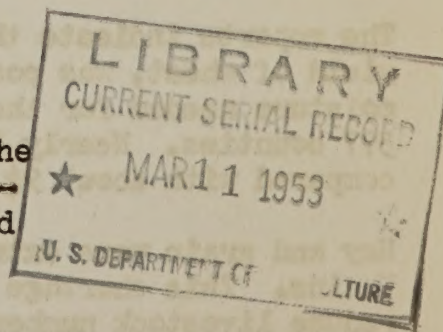
The 1952 pig crop totaled 91.8 million head, a decrease of 10 percent from 1951 and the smallest pig crop since 1948. The fall pig crop for 1952 is estimated at 35,355,000.

THE YEAR AHEAD: Farmers can look for a continued high level of domestic demand for farm products during 1953, says the Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Employment will be maintained, and wage rates and consumer incomes probably will rise moderately, although economic activity may level off in the latter part of the year.

Exports of farm products in the current fiscal year are down from record levels of a year ago and probably will continue at lower levels through 1953. Marketings of farm products next year are expected to hold near record levels if growing conditions are favorable.

With prospects for some further easing in prices received by farmers and continued large marketings, farmers' cash receipts in 1953 are not likely to exceed the 33.5 billion dollars estimated for 1952. Cost rates to farmers for most commodities used in farm production and farm wage rates are likely to rise gradually over the coming year. Interest and tax charges per acre also will be higher. As a result, the farmers' realized net income is expected to be somewhat smaller than the 14.2 billion dollars estimated for 1952.

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PMA FARM NEWS

January 16, 1953

MACHINE AGE INCREASES CONSERVATION NEEDS: Although modern machinery has stepped up the capacity of the individual farmer to produce, it has also increased the danger of soil deterioration and erosion, says _____, Chairman of the _____ County PMA Committee.

The very fact that modern machinery and other improved methods of farming have helped to increase yields means that fertility is being taken out of the soil at a more rapid rate. During the past 15 years there has been a decided shift from horses and mules to tractors and trucks. This has meant the release of nearly 30 million acres for the production of cultivated food and fiber crops for people instead of hay and close planted feed crops. This has opened the door for greater soil losses. It also means that organic matter is being worked out of the soil more rapidly.

Unless steps are taken to restore organic matter and keep the soil in good condition, modern machinery could be a tool in the hands of farmers for destroying their land rather than building it up.

In the effort to step up conservation operations, the chairman points out, PMA committeemen have visited each farm in _____ County to assist farmers in checking conservation needs on their farms and to acquaint farmers with the assistance available under the Agricultural Conservation Program. Conservation practices which are most urgently needed are being emphasized.

FARM PRICE NOT CONSUMER'S, SAYS : What farmers receive for their products is only a fraction of what consumers pay for food in the market place, _____, Chairman of the State Production and Marketing Administration Committee, reminds the public generally.

Consumers know the truth of this statement, the chairman says, but this doesn't prevent perennial gripes at high prices from being generally directed at farmers.

"The record is there for everybody to read," Mr. _____ stated. "And the record shows that retail food costs are higher, marketing costs are higher, and the farmer's price is lower. It's wrong to blame farmers for high prices."

In November, Department of Agriculture estimates show, the annual retail cost of foods going into the family market basket was \$7 higher than a year earlier; the annual return to the farmer was \$21 lower. The charges for assembling, processing, and distributing the farm-produced foods were \$29 higher.

Of the dollar that consumers spent for these farm foods in November, farmers received only 46 cents, 3 cents less than a year earlier. This was equal to the postwar low. During the first 8 months of 1952, the farmer received an average of 63 cents of the consumer's meat dollar; 56 cents of the dollar spent for dairy products; 63 cents of the dollar spent for poultry and eggs; 26 cents of the dollar

spent for bakery and other cereal products; and 37 cents of the dollar spent for all fruits and vegetables.

While farm product prices generally averaged 4 percent lower during the first 11 months of 1952 than for the same period of 1951, prices paid by farmers for all production items averaged 3 percent higher.

ACP THIRD STEP IN CONSERVATION JOB: The Agricultural Conservation Program is an essential third step in getting conservation farming established on individual farms, believes _____, Chairman of the _____ County PMA Committee.

As he sees it, the first step is to develop ways and means for meeting conservation problems. The second is to arouse interest in the problem and to demonstrate what can be done about it. The third step is to provide the necessary assistance to get the needed practices established on individual farms. It boils down to research, extension and financial help.

In _____ County all three of the steps are being used. The soil conservation district develops and demonstrates methods of checking erosion and keeping the land productive. The efforts to acquaint farmers with the seriousness of soil erosion and effective ways of correcting erosion and soil deterioration is carried on by Extension Service and other educational agencies.

The ACP is responsible for the third step which is essentially one of providing assistance to the individual farmer for carrying out approved measures on his own farm. This assistance is on a share-the-cost basis, with the farmer paying more than half the cost of the approved practices. This assistance represents the interest of all the people in protecting and building the soil. It is a form of insurance to maintain the needed production and to protect the expenditures made for research and education.

Chairman _____ advises that approximately (number) _____ County farms have signed up to participate in the 1953 Agricultural Conservation Program. This is _____ percent of all the farms in the county.

CCC LOAN DEADLINES APPROACH: January 31 is the closing date for taking out Commodity Credit Corporation loans or purchase agreements on 1952 crops* of (wheat, oats, rye, barley, grain sorghums, rice, cottonseed, soybeans, flaxseed, dry edible beans, farmers stock peanuts, hay and pasture grass seed), _____, Chairman of the County Production and Marketing Administration Committee, said today.

Loan rates in (name) County are (quote rates and crops).

For farmers who do not want immediate cash, Mr. _____ explained, purchase agreements will give the same protection, since they guarantee the support price at the end of the season on a stated amount of the crop, which the grower then delivers to the Government. The amount the grower receives of course depends on the grade and condition of the crop.

Loans on the 1952 crop of _____ mature on (date), or earlier on demand.
Intention to deliver to the Government under purchase agreements must be filed with the PMA County Committee during the 30-day period immediately before the loan maturity date.

As of (date), farmers in the County had covered the following amounts of their 1952 crops under the price support programs - either loans or purchase agreements.

(List amounts and crops.)

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* Adapt to mention only local crops.

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PMA FARM NEWS

January 23, 1953

GRASS ROOTS HOLD WATER AND SOIL: Farmers of _____ County who are looking for more effective ways of saving and holding moisture on their land are reminded by _____, Chairman of the County PMA Committee, that grass roots are hard to beat as a reservoir for rainfall.

A check made on rangeland in Texas showed that where there was a good sod cover the soil absorbed 97 percent of the water applied. On the same type of soil where the range was in poor condition and most of the grass was gone, 90 percent of the water was lost in runoff.

In another check following a rainstorm the soil on barren land was wet to a depth of 6 to 8 inches. On land with a good grass cover the water soaked down to a depth of 24 inches.

Chairman _____ believes that most ranchers are aware that a good grass cover is a means of checking runoff and erosion but probably few realize how much difference it makes in the amount of water actually held in the soil. The grass roots open up channels which lead the water into the soil. Where vegetation is sparse falling rain drops soon puddle the surface soil and seal it over so that little moisture soaks in.

As the amount of water that accumulates on the surface increases, little streams are started and gullies begin. Instead of going into the soil it runs off and carries valuable topsoil with it.

The moisture held in the soil not only provides needed water for growing plants, but much of it percolates down through the soil to build up the reservoirs which supply springs and streams.

For this reason, as the chairman sees it, farmers and ranchers who are using the Agricultural Conservation Program to help improve their pastures and ranges are not only building up a reservoir to hold back moisture for their own use, but they are contributing to the water supply along the streams and rivers below.

FEED GRAIN SUPPLIES ON FARMS ADEQUATE: Stocks of feed grains remaining on farms on January 1, 1953, were smaller than on January 1 of any of the peak years 1949-51, but larger than last year and in most years prior to 1949, says the Department of Agriculture's latest crop report. Total feed grains on farms provide adequate supplies for the smaller numbers of livestock to be fed, and are likely to leave a margin for building up carry-over stocks, with all of the increase in corn.

Stocks of 2,173 million bushels of corn on farms were 6 percent larger than average and 15 percent larger than a year earlier. Oats, barley, grain sorghums, and hay stocks were below average. Disappearance of a billion bushels of corn in the October-December quarter was less than in any of the last 3 years, although more than in most previous years.

Wheat stocks of 399 million bushels on farms on January 1 were nearly a fifth larger than on January 1, 1952, and slightly larger than average; rye stocks were the smallest in the 20 years of record. Nearly a billion bushels of wheat have moved from farms since harvest, with the larger part of the movement in the July-September quarter and movement in the October-December quarter below average. The 6-months movement from farms was exceeded only in the latter half of 1947 and 1948.

Meantime, the Production and Marketing Administration reports that, through December 15, 1952, farmers had put more than 100 million bushels of corn and 343 million bushels of wheat under Government price supports. Through the full month of December 1951, the totals for 1951 crops were less than 10 million bushels of corn and 193 million bushels of wheat.

Of the 1952-crop corn under support, 96 million bushels were stored on farms under loan and 3.7 million bushels were under purchase agreements; 649,000 bushels were stored in warehouses under loans. Of the 1952-crop wheat under support, 264 million bushels were stored in warehouses under loans, 73 million bushels on farms under loans, and 5.7 million bushels under purchase agreements.

The largest amount of corn put under support for an entire season was 504 million bushels of the 1948 record crop; the largest wheat total was 408 million bushels in 1942-43.

PRODUCTION GOALS IN CONSERVATION: The production goals for 1953 points up again the necessity of also having conservation goals for the individual farm, says _____, Chairman of the _____ County PMA Committee. If the farmers are to continue to meet the production needs of this country, more attention must be given to building and maintaining the land.

_____ urged _____ County farmers in planning their crops to meet the production goals to include in those plans the conservation measures essential to keeping their land productive. He explained that conservation is taking on a much broader meaning than it used to have. It is more than merely stopping gullies from getting bigger. It is also checking erosion, strengthening soil structure as a protective means of keeping erosion from starting, and it is building up the soil so that the land will be more productive.

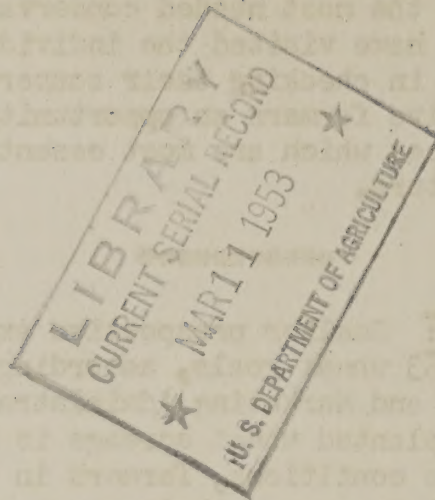
Conservation farming is planning the whole farming operation in such a way that each year will find the farm in better condition than it was before. It means restoring organic matter to soils that have lost this life-giving material. It means controlling runoff and more efficient use of the moisture which falls on the land.

The chairman explains that under the 1953 ACP assistance is provided to aid farmers in carrying out the most needed conservation on their farms. PMA community committee-men have visited the individual farms in _____ County and have helped farmers in checking their conservation needs. The purpose of these visits is to give farmers an opportunity to use ACP to help carry out conservation practices which are most essential in meeting production goals now and in the future.

1952 GRAIN EXPORTS LOWER: Smaller prospective exports for wheat is the reason for the lower 1953 wheat goals, according to J. E. Kasper, Chairman of the State Production and Marketing Administration Committee. Although abandonment of already-planted wheat acreage is indicated as being heavy because of poor moisture conditions, farmers in the spring wheat areas especially are urged not to exceed their wheat acreage goals.

The latest report for the period July-November 1952 estimates U.S. exports of grains and grain products at 187 million bushels, compared with 253 million bushels during the same period of 1951. Of these totals, wheat, flour, and macaroni accounted for 124 million bushels in 1952 and 184 million bushels in 1951. Other grains covered by the export totals include corn, grain sorghums, barley, and rye.

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The situation existing last year under the 1952 Act and which is projected to this
year is carrying out the conservation program in their farms. The
conservation program has been carried out in the past and the conservation program
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PMA FARM NEWS

January 30, 1953

CONSERVATION PROGRESS OUTLINED: Greater accomplishments in conservation of agricultural land resources was made in 1952 than in any postwar year, says a recent report on progress of Department of Agriculture efforts toward coordination of conservation activities. This fact was apparent both in better conservation farming applied to the land and in the increasing awareness of the urgent need for sound conservation systems of farming, according to the report.

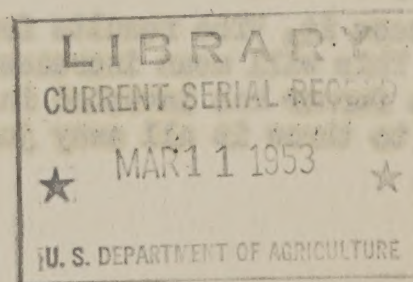
Reviews of farmers' accomplishments under the 1952 Agricultural Conservation Program and through technical assistance by the Soil Conservation Service bolstered the conclusion that greatly increased teamwork expedited progress of the over-all conservation job in American agriculture.

SCS reported technical assistance to 2,404 soil conservation districts and active cooperation with such districts by 1,120,000 farmers and ranchers. ACP soil and water conservation practices during the year were carried out on 2,357,000 farms.

Coordination of conservation efforts, the report states, has brought about a more unified, Department-wide conservation program, under which various specific phases of work toward the same goal have been assigned to the agencies best qualified to carry them out.

The public stake in the productive capacity of our farms, the report concludes, "is full justification of the investment of public funds in research, educational, technical, and the limited share-the-cost assistance that are now all-important and interlocking parts of the Department's total effort toward achieving the conservation of our agricultural resources...All of the people have benefited from the increased quantity and quality of food produced as a result of the use of better soil-conservation methods on more farms."

FARM OWNERSHIP INCREASES: Of the 5,379,250 farms listed by the Census Bureau in 1950, 3,091,473 were operated by full owners, 840,924 by part owners, 1,102,527 by tenants and 344,326 by share-croppers. In the decade 1940 - 1950 when the number of farm operators decreased by about 700,000 or 12 percent, the number of full owners remained relatively unchanged. The number of part owners were up substantially, but the number of tenants declined about 40 percent and the number of sharecroppers 36 percent.



POPULATION TRENDS EMPHASIZE NEED FOR CONSERVATION: Today less than 15 percent of the population in this country live on farms. Out of a total population of over 158 million, only about 23 million live on farms. Back in 1910 when the population was less than 93 million, 32 million lived on farms.

_____, Chairman of the _____ County PMA Committee, points out that this increase in population accompanied by fewer and fewer farmers emphasizes the necessity of a national soil and water conservation program. The 85 percent of the people not on farms are just as dependent on the production from these farms as the 15 percent who live on them.

What is done — or not done — to prevent erosion and to build up soil for greater production in the future will affect the people in town as much as the people who till the soil. Only by holding the soil in place and by encouraging production will our people continue to eat as well as now.

The Agricultural Conservation Program, Chairman _____ points out, is a means of protecting the interests of these 85 percent who live off the farm as well as the 15 percent on farms. Through this program all cooperate in protecting our soil and water resources. The assistance provided to farmers who cooperate in this program represents the interest of all the people in the continued production from our farms.

GOOD SEED PROTECTS CONSERVATION INVESTMENT: The use of good grass and _____ is one of the best means for the farmer to protect his investment in conservation, says _____, Chairman of the County PMA Committee. After a farmer has gone to the expense of preparing his land and buying the needed fertilizers it is hardly good business to waste it through the use of poor or unadapted seed.

To purchase seed that is not adapted to local conditions is a waste of money. Such seed may look good and may appear to have all of the desired characteristics but may not grow well in the locality. To protect themselves, he urged _____ County farmers to use strains and varieties that are adapted locally and to check seed tags for germination and percentage of weed seed.

The effectiveness of grasses and legumes in controlling erosion and building up the soil as well as in the production of forage depends on the stand. A little more attention and possibly paying a little more when the seed is purchased may be the greater economy. Poor seed is always expensive in the long run.

Specifically, chairman _____ points out, a sod waterway, to be effective, must have a good stand of grass. This is necessary to slow down the flow of water and to filter out the silt. Unless good adapted seed is used, such a stand of grass may not be possible.

As he sees it, "The results from grasses and legumes will be better if good seed is used. This will mean increased production as well as more effective conservation. After a farmer has invested in fertilizers and seed bed preparation, he cannot afford to throw it all away just to save a little in the cost of seed.

Chairman _____ urges all farmers who are carrying out seeding practices under the Agricultural Conservation Program to make sure they are using good seed. They have the added responsibility of protecting not only their own investment but the investment of the nation in these conservation practices.

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